

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-7, 13-15, and 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hakim*; claims 10-12 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hakim*. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-7, 13-15, and 19 and 20 remain active in the present application.

Considering first the rejection of claims 1, 4-7, 13-15, and 19 and 20 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by *Hakim*, it is submitted that applicant has amended claim 1 so as to obviate the subject rejection. More particularly, applicant has amended claim 1 to specify that the animal sweat scraper has a core forming a scraper blade having a scraper surface and a sheath extending along the scraper blade and defining a pair of sharp V-shaped scraper blades. Each of these blades is defined as having a lateral sidewall and a topwall disposed along the scraper surface and meeting along a sharp edge which extends away from the scraper surface so as to define the scraper blade edges. There is no similar structure in *Hakim* whatsoever.

Basis for this amendment is found in applicant's Figures 1(c), as well as Figure 6. As best seen in Figure 1c, a lateral sidewall which is shown in Figure 1(c) as a vertical wall, and a top wall which is shown as a curved wall intersecting the lateral sidewall, define a sharp V-shaped edge in the location shown in Figure 1(c). Paragraph [0040] has been amended to provide the necessary basis for the subject amendment.

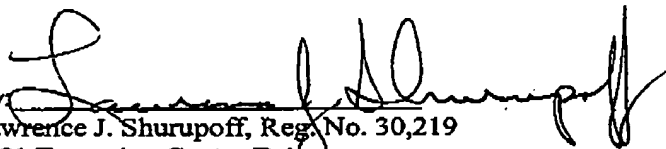
A review of *Hakim* fails to disclose the presence of any sharp V-shaped scraper blade edges. Rather, *Hakim* shows rounded smooth surfaces which are intended to engage the delicate surfaces of a baby's mouth. Clearly, sharp V-shaped edges of the type set forth in applicant's claim 1 would be totally inappropriate for use with a baby spoon as taught by *Hakim*. Accordingly, it is submitted that applicant's claims merit an indication of allowance.

Turning next to the rejection of claims 10-12 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Hakim*, it is submitted that, for the reasons stated above, applicant's claim 1, as well as all

remaining claims which depend therefrom, including claims 10-12, merit an indication of allowability, and the same is hereby earnestly solicited.

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